

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 February 2004 (05.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/011248 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B32B 15/08**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2002/041652

(22) International Filing Date: 2 December 2002 (02.12.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/399,337 29 July 2002 (29.07.2002) US

(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): **E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY** [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). **NIPPON OIL CORPORATION** [JP/JP]; 8, Chidori-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0816 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MILLER, Chris, L.** [US/US]; 1642 Flint Hill Road, Landenberg, PA 19350 (US). **UCHIDA, Daisuke** [JP/JP]; **NIPPON OIL CORPORATION**, 8, Chidori-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0816 (JP). **KOBAYASHI, Takashi** [JP/JP]; **NIPPON OIL CORPORATION**, 8, Chidori-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0816 (JP). **AOYAGI, Kenichi** [JP/JP]; **NIPPON OIL CORPORATION**, 8, Chidori-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0816

(JP). **TAKEMURA, Shinichi** [JP/JP]; **NIPPON OIL CORPORATION**, 8, Chidori-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 231-0816 (JP).

(74) Agent: **FAIR, Tamera, L.**; **E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY**, Legal Patent Records Center, 4417 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington, DE 19805 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

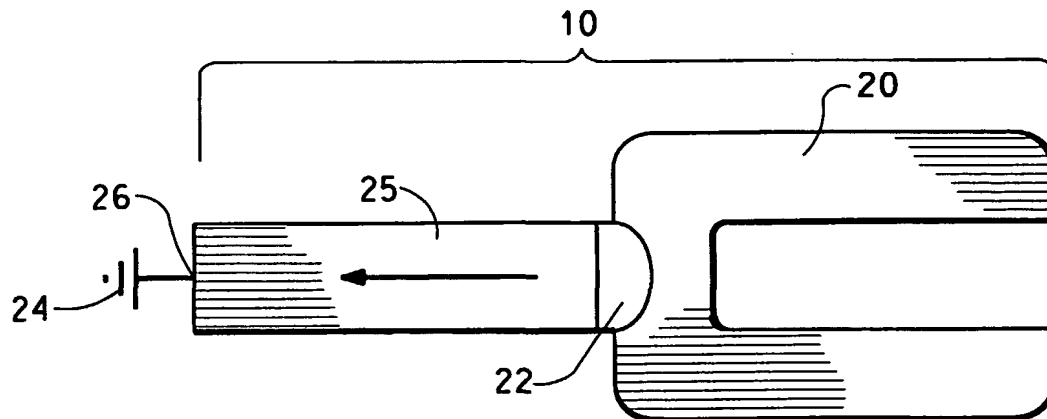
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: CARBON FIBER COMPOSITE TRANSFER MEMBER WITH REFLECTIVE SURFACES



(57) Abstract: A method of transporting precision equipment materials without absorption of thermal energy through the heat sensitive material or device such as flat panel displays. The transfer member has a carbon fiber reinforced composite material body with a layer of metal film on the top and bottom surfaces of the transfer member that provides a reflective surface. Flat panel displays, for example, release radiant thermal energy that is absorbed by the carbon fiber reinforced composite which is detrimental to the flat panel display. The reflective surface created by the metal film prevents the energy absorption by the carbon fiber reinforced composite. A glass fiber and epoxy layer on the metal film surface protects the metal film.

WO 2004/011248 A1

TITLE**CARBON FIBER COMPOSITE TRANSFER MEMBER WITH
REFLECTIVE SURFACES**

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application
No. 60/399,337, filed July 29, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

6 The present invention relates to a transfer member. More
10 particularly, the present invention relates to a carbon fiber
composite transfer member with reflective surfaces that is suitable
for transferring flat panel displays without energy absorption.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The following disclosures may be relevant to various aspects of the
present invention and may be briefly summarized as follows:

 In US 6,194, 081 B1 to Kingston describes a method of preparing a
beta titanium-composite laminate for use predominantly in aircraft
structures. The beta titanium-composite laminate comprises a first layer of
20 beta titanium alloy having a certain yield strength to modulus of elasticity
ratio and adhering a first layer of composite having a certain strength to
modulus of elasticity ratio to the layer of beta titanium alloy, thereby
forming a beta titanium-composite laminate, where the yield strength to
modulus of elasticity ratio of the first layer of beta titanium alloy matches
25 the strength to modulus of elasticity ratio of the first layer of composite
such that the first layer of beta titanium alloy will reach its stress limit and
the first layer of composite will reach its stress limits at about the same
total strain.

 In US 5,866,272 to Westre et al. discloses a hybrid laminate and
30 skin panels of hybrid laminate structure that are suitable for a supersonic
civilian aircraft. The hybrid laminates include lay-ups of layers of titanium
alloy foil and composite plies, that are optimally oriented to counteract

forces encountered in use and are bonded to a central core structure, such as titanium alloy honeycomb. The reinforcing fibers of the composite plies are selected from carbon and boron, and the fibers are continuous and parallel oriented within each ply. However, some plies may be oriented at angles to other plies. Nevertheless, in a preferred embodiment of the invention, a substantial majority of, or all of, the fibers of the hybrid laminates are oriented in a common direction. The outer surfaces of the laminates include a layer of titanium foil to protect the underlying composite-containing structure from the environment, and attack by solvents, and the like.

US Patent No. 4,888,247 to Zweben et al. discloses heat conducting laminates and laminated heat conducting devices, having at least one layer of metal and at least one layer of polymer matrix composite material having low-thermal-expansion reinforcing material distributed throughout and embedded therein. The coefficient of thermal expansion and the thermal conductivity of the laminated heat conducting devices are defined by the metal in combination with the polymer matrix material and low-thermal-expansion reinforcing material in the laminate. The coefficient of thermal expansion and thermal conductivity of a heat conducting device can be controlled by bonding at least one layer of metal to at least one layer of polymer matrix composite material having low-thermal-expansion reinforcing material distributed throughout and embedded therein. In one embodiment, the laminated heat conducting device comprises a plurality of alternating layers of aluminum and epoxy resin having graphite fibers distributed throughout the epoxy resin.

US Patent No. 3,939,024 to Hoggatt discloses structural reinforced thermoplastic laminates capable of supporting loads in at least two directions and containing by volume about 45% to 65% fiber reinforcement. The laminates can be used with or without metal cladding.

In the manufacturing processes of precision devices, such as flat panel display devices and semiconductors, a transfer member for transferring these components is used. Such a transfer member

may be installed in a device such as an industrial robot for moving precision devices. The components are placed or held on the transfer member and moved to the desired location. In flat panel display manufacturing, for example, high temperature displays are transferred between process steps by automatic robotics. These robots have end effectors (e.g. support arms) that lift and provide a resting place for the display panels during their transport. Ceramic and aluminum have historically been used as the end effector material due to their stiffness and purity levels. Recently, CFRP (carbon fiber reinforced plastic) has been introduced as end effectors because of their stiffness, cost and vibration damping properties have been desirable. However, CFRPs are black in color and absorb radiant thermal energy from the display panel during transport which is detrimental to flat panel displays because too much heat transfer can damage the flat panel display or other heat sensitive material. This feature limits the market of CFRP end effectors in flat panel display manufacturing where it is important not to absorb radiant thermal energy.

It is desirable to provide a transfer member (e.g. support arms or end effectors) that prevents energy absorption by the CFRP, such as for flat panel display transport.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly stated, and in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for transporting a device that has a surface that absorbs radiant thermal energy which comprises the step of using a transporting member comprising:

- a) a body having a carbon-fiber reinforced composite material, said body having a top surface and a bottom surface;
- b) a metal film covering the top and bottom surfaces of the composite body, said film forming a reflective surface; and
- c) a glass fiber epoxy resin forming a layer on the metal film covering the top surface and the bottom surface of the body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be more fully understood from the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings,
5 in which:

Figure 1 shows a top view of an end effector or support arm used for transport in the present invention;

Figure 2 shows cross-sectional view of the layers of the transfer member in the present invention;

10 Figure 3 shows a top view showing another example of the transfer member; and

Figure 4 shows a cross-sectional view of the transfer member (i.e. end effector, support arm, body) is cut by a vertical section, including its longitudinal direction.

15 While the present invention will be described in connection with a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to that embodiment. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended
20 claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a transfer member that provides a reflective surface that prevents energy absorption by the carbon fiber-reinforced plastic used in end effectors or support arms to transport
25 precision devices that include flat panel displays and semi-conductors. In high temperature displays precision devices such as flat panel displays and semi-conductors are transferred between process steps by automatic robotics.

30 The carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material of the transfer member body includes at least one layer of a unidirectional prepreg in which carbon fibers are arranged essentially parallel with the longitudinal

direction of the body. The carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material of the body includes at least one layer of a cloth prepreg containing carbon fibers, with at least part of the carbon fibers of the prepreg and the electroconductive polymer part being electrically connected. In the present invention, each layer of the composite body preferably ranges from about 0.02 mm to about 1.00 mm in thickness.

The carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material of the transfer member includes: a carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic (CFRP) and a carbon-fiber-reinforced carbon composite material (C/C composite material). The CFRP material is preferred. The matrix material of the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material comprises: a thermosetting polymer, a thermoplastic polymer, carbon, ceramic, metal, and mixtures thereof. In the present invention, a thermosetting polymer, carbon, or a mixture thereof is preferable as the matrix. A thermosetting polymer includes: an epoxy, aramid, bismaleimide, phenol, furan, urea, unsaturated polyester, epoxy acrylate, diallyl phthalate, vinyl ester, thermosetting polyimide, melamine, and other such materials.

The thermoplastic polymer matrix material for the present invention includes: polyimide resin, nylon, liquid aromatic polyamide, polyester, liquid aromatic polyester, polypropylene, polyether sulfone polymer, polyphenylene sulfide, PEEK (polyether ether ketone), PEK (polyetherketone) PEKK (polyether ketone ketone), LCP (liquid crystal polymer), polysulfone, polyvinyl chloride, vinylon, aramid, fluoropolymer, and other such materials. The ceramic matrix material for the present invention includes: alumina, silica, titanium carbide, silicon carbide, boron nitride, silicon nitride, and other such materials. Metal matrix materials for the present invention include: titanium, aluminum, tin, silicon, copper, iron, magnesium, chromium, nickel, molybdenum, tungsten, and alloys containing one or more of these metals.

The carbon fibers included in the above-mentioned carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material comprise: petroleum pitch-type carbon fibers, coal pitch-type carbon fibers, polyacrylonitrile (PAN) carbon fibers, and other such fibers. The electric resistivity of the carbon fibers is normally from $1\text{--}30\mu\Omega\cdot\text{m}$, and preferably $1\text{--}20\mu\Omega\cdot\text{m}$. The carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material may include only one kind of carbon fibers

and can also include a hybrid structure of two or more kinds of these carbon fibers.

The form of the carbon fibers used in the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material include one-dimensional reinforcing, two-dimensional reinforcing, three-dimensional reinforcing, random reinforcing, and similar forms are appropriately selected and adopted in accordance with the desired purpose of the transfer member. For example, the carbon fibers may be in the form of short fibers, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric, unidirectional material, two-dimensional woven fabric, and three-dimensional woven fabric as desired. More specifically, the carbon fibers may be used in a material with the structure of felt, mat, braided fabric (i.e. nonwoven fabric comprising carbon fibers arranged in parallel crosses or triangular form with hot-melt polymer), unidirectional material, pseudo-isotropic material, plain fabric, satin, twilled fabric, pseudo thin fabric, entangled fabric, etc., laminated and then can be installed in the above-mentioned carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material.

The electroconductive polymer part is electrically connected to at least part of the carbon fibers in the body. The body makes contact with the article when the article is transferred. A portion of the electroconductive polymer part is in contact with the transferred article placed thereon. The contact, between the article and the body, is electrically connected to the electroconductive polymer part via the carbon fibers. The present invention further provides contact to a grounding conductor.

The electroconductive polymer part includes a polyimide polymer. In the present invention, the polymer material has electrical conductivity. For example, a polymer material in which an electroconductive filler is added to a thermosetting or thermoplastic polymer. Other materials for the above-mentioned polymer material include: a fluoropolymer, PAI (polyamideimide), PA (polyamide), PEI (polyetherimide), POM (polyoxymethylene), PEEK (polyetheretherketone), PEKK (polyetherketoneketone), PEK (polyetherketone), polyacetate, nylon polymer, aromatic polyimide, polyethersulfon (PES), polyimide, polyetherimide, polyester, liquid crystal polymer (LCP), polybenzimidazole (PBI), Poly(paraphenylene benzobisaxazole) (PBO), polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), polycarbonate (PC), polyacrylate, polyacetal, or mixture of two or

more thereof. Other electroconductive fillers for use in the present invention include: metal powders, carbon black, carbon fibers, zinc oxide titanium oxide, potassium titanate. It is preferable, that the polymer material contain a polyimide that has excellent abrasive resistance, antistatic property and chemical resistance; has dimensional stability and mechanical processability for manufacturing a transfer member; and does not easily damage articles such as glass substrates or wafers when making contact with them; and does not easily generate particles.

In the present invention, the volume resistivity of the electroconductive polymer part normally ranges from 10^1 - 10^{12} Ω ·cm, and preferably from 10^4 - 10^5 Ω ·cm. Additionally, a manufacturing method for making the transfer member may include preparing a transfer member body containing a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material. The process exposes a portion of the carbon fibers of the composite material, and an electroconductive polymer part is installed on the transfer member body such that it can be electrically connected to the exposed carbon fibers. The electroconductive polymer part is installed by bonding the transfer member body and the electroconductive polymer part with an electroconductive adhesive. The manufacturing method for installation of the electroconductive polymer part comprises inserting the electroconductive polymer part into a hole or concave part. The hole and concave part are formed in a way to expose the internal carbon fibers of the composite material. Another aspect of the present invention is the method of manufacturing a transfer member with electric conductivity. A method for manufacturing the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material such as CFRP and C/C composite material known in the art can be used. For example, the CFRP can be prepared by forming a prepreg by impregnating reinforcing carbon fibers with a thermosetting polymer, then laminating and curing them. However, it is preferable to obtain the CFRP with a prescribed elastic modulus by laminating the prepreg of unidirectional reinforcing carbon fibers, that is, unidirectional prepreg so that the direction of the fibers is 0° and 90° , 0° , $\pm 45^\circ$, and 90° or 0° , $\pm 60^\circ$, and 90° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the transfer part.

In the impregnation of the reinforcing carbon fibers into the thermosetting polymer, a hot-melt method, that usually heats the polymer to 60 - 90°C and impregnates it on the reinforcing fibers, is preferably

applied. The content of the thermosetting polymer in the prepreg manufacture is usually 20-50 wt%, and preferably 25-45 wt%, relative to the total weight of the reinforcing fibers.

5 If necessary, a filler can be added to the polymer constituting the prepreg. The filler material includes: mica, alumina, talc, fine powder-shaped silica, wollastonite, sepiolite, basic magnesium sulfate, calcium carbonate, polytetrafluoroethylene powder, zinc powder, aluminum powder, and organic fine particles such as fine acryl particles, fine epoxy polymer particles, fine polyamide particles, and fine polyurethane particles
10 and other such materials or a combination of two or more of any of the above. The prepreg is laminated in an appropriate shape on the transfer part and heated and cured at 110-150°C for 30 min-3 hr in an autoclave or by a press, so that the CFRP can be obtained. With such a method, CFRP with stable qualities and little voids can be obtained.

15 The C/C composite material can also be manufactured by a known method. For example, carbon fibers are used in a form similar to the carbon fibers used for the CFRP manufacture described above. A preform (i.e. a shape formed at an intermediate step of the process) is formed by impregnating the preform into a matrix polymer such as a thermoplastic
20 polymer and thermosetting polymer, then carbonized by a hot isostatic process (i.e. HIP) treatment or similar method so that the carbonized matrix can be formed on the carbon fibers. Carbonization can be carried out by heating the preform as described above at 500°C, preferably, 300°C, in an inert gas.

25 The C/C composite includes a pitch substance such as those using coal pitch, petroleum pitch, synthetic pitch, isotropic pitch, and meso-phase pitch as raw materials. Also a thermoplastic polymer that may include: polyimide resin, phenol polymer, epoxy polymer, furan polymer and urea polymer and a thermosetting polymer comprises phenol
30 polymer, epoxy polymer, furan polymer, urea polymer and other such materials.

The pitch, thermosetting polymer, or thermoplastic polymer can also be mixed with a filler and provided to the process for forming the matrix. Examples of filler material include: carbon powders, graphite
35 powders, silicon carbide powders, silica powders, carbon fiber whiskers, carbon short fibers, and silicon carbon short fibers.

Another example of the method for manufacturing the C/C composite material, is forming a matrix by attaching a thermally decomposable carbon to carbon fibers using chemical vapor deposition (CVD), chemical vapor infiltration (CVI), or such similar process creating the C/C composite material can be prepared. The C/C composite material obtained in this manner can be further subjected to a miniaturization treatment. In particular, the density of the composite material can be improved by repeating the matrix forming process.

The body of the transfer member of the present invention may be formed from just the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material or, from the combination of the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite fiber and other materials such as a glass fiber reinforced plastic (GFRP). The other materials include structures such as a honeycomb, a porous body, or a corrugated plate .

The body can be prepared by subjecting the molded body, containing the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material obtained using the method described above, to a process such as cutting the body to the desired shape. With such processing, the body having the desired form can be obtained with accurate working precision. Furthermore, an electrical connection of the carbon fibers and the electroconductive polymer part can be easily achieved as will be described subsequently. And, if necessary, the body can have coating agents applied to prevent particle generation from the working surface. A thermosetting polymer such as an epoxy polymer and silicone wax can be used as the coating agent.

An example of the transfer member body of the present invention is an oblong plate-shaped structure with skin layers positioned on both surfaces of the plate and a core layer positioned between the skin layers. The top and bottom surfaces of the structure are covered with an epoxy coated, metal film forming a reflective surface. As mentioned above, each skin layer of the transfer member body preferably ranges from about 0.02 mm to about 1.00 mm in thickness. The skin layers have a first carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material layer containing carbon fibers, that are oriented at an angle of -20° to $+20^{\circ}$ with respect to the longitudinal direction of the transfer part and have a tensile elastic modulus of 500-1,000 GPa. The second layer is a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite.

material layer containing carbon fibers, that are oriented at an angle of +75° to +90° and/or -75° to -90° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the transfer part and have a tensile elastic modulus of 200-400 GPa. The skin layers have a third carbon-fiber reinforced composite fiber that is oriented at an angle of +30° to +60° and/or -30° to -60° with respect to the longitudinal direction of the transfer part and has a tensile elastic modulus of 500-1,000 GPa. The ratio of the thickness of the three skin layers to the total thickness of the skin layers and the core layer is 20-80%, preferably 60-80%. The contact can be electrically connected to the polymer electroconductive part via carbon fibers of the skin layers. Also the core layer, in addition to or instead of, the above-mentioned third skin layer of carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material, may include another material layer with a structure such as a honeycomb, porous body, and/or a waved plate (corrugated) and voids may also be used. A cloth layer made of fibrous materials such as carbon fibers, can be disposed on the outermost surface of the body making it easier to process the transfer members than if the cloth layer was not present. And, if the cloth layers are made of carbon fiber, the electronic connection between the contact and electroconductive polymer part becomes easier.

An embodiment of the transfer member of the present invention includes a body having a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material and an electroconductive polymer part being electrically connected to at least part of the carbon fibers in the body and having a portion for contact with a transferred article by placing it on the body. The area where the transfer member makes contact with the article may be the surface of the distal end of the transfer member, and the electroconductive polymer part.

The electrical connection of the electroconductive polymer part with at least part of the carbon fibers of the body can be achieved by: exposing a portion of the carbon fibers of the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material contained in the body, and installing the electroconductive polymer part on the body so that it can be electrically connected with the carbon fibers exposed. The carbon fibers may be exposed by forming the transfer member body as a molded body containing the carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material and forming a hole or concave part by cutting a portion thereof. (e.g. Normally, when a molded body containing a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material is manufactured, its surface is

coated with a matrix, and the carbon fibers are not exposed. Thus, if a portion of the body is cut, the carbon fibers are exposed.) In addition to the carbon fiber layer, the metal and the glass fiber epoxy layer as shown in Figure 4 would also have to be similarly cut and exposed. The glass
5 fiber epoxy resin layer comprises a combination of glass fiber material and epoxy resin material. The glass fiber material includes S-glass, E-glass, and D-glass and examples of epoxy resin materials include condensation products of epichlorohydrin and bisphenol-A.

The electrical connection of the exposed carbon fibers and the
10 electroconductive polymer part may occur by bonding the body and the electroconductive polymer part with an electroconductive adhesive at a different portion of the electroconductive polymer part than the portion for contact with a transferred article on the surface of the body containing the cut surface or by inserting the electroconductive polymer part into the hole
15 or concave part formed in the process for exposing the carbon fibers of the body. However, a method for bonding the body and the electroconductive polymer part is not critical, any method in which the electroconductive polymer part can be electrically connected with at least part of the carbon fiber forming the body and another portion where a transferred article may
20 be placed in contact therewith may be used.

The transfer part of the present invention may be equipped with only one electroconductive polymer part or with several electroconductive polymer parts. When several electroconductive polymer parts are used, one or more of them can be electrically connected to the carbon fibers.

25 The transfer part of the present invention can be further equipped with a contact to a grounding conductor. The above-mentioned contact is electrically connected with the electroconductive polymer part via at least part of the carbon fibers, so that the static electricity of an article making contact with the electroconductive polymer part can be removed by the
30 grounding method. The above-mentioned contact may be simply that of the exposed surface of the carbon fibers formed by cutting of the body or it may also be a desired metal electrode.

The shape of the transfer part of the present invention can be oblong as mentioned above, however, a variety of shapes including a
35 plate shape, rod shape, fork shape, honeycomb shape, hollow rod shape, T shape, I shape, curved surface shape, or a combined shape can also be

adopted for use in the present invention. Typically, the transfer member of the present invention can have an area in contact with the transferred article at its distal end or can have the contact at its proximal end. The transfer member of the present invention may have a shape in which only
5 the electroconductive polymer part makes contact with the transferred article and supports it or, a shape in which both the electroconductive polymer part and the body make contact with the transferred article and support it. The proximal end is fixed to a device for moving the transfer member such as an industrial robot. The device is operated such that the
10 article being transferred may be placed or held at the distal end to enable transfer of the article.

Reference is now made to the drawings for a detailed description of the present invention. Examples of the transfer member of the present invention are explained below in reference to the Figures. Reference is
15 now made to the drawings for a detailed description of the present invention. Figure 1 shows a topical view of an embodiment of the present invention where an end effector or support arm or body 10 has a fork-shaped structure. The body 10 has a portion 20 of the transfer member that holds the article (e.g. precision device) being transferred. The handle
20 portion 25 is attached to the article holding portion 20. The body 10 is formed from a core material such as a carbon fiber composite material and then additional layers as described in Figure 2.

In the body 10, part or all of the carbon fibers are arranged essentially parallel with the longitudinal direction, that is, the distal
25 position-proximal position direction of the body 10. An electroconductive polymer part 22 is mounted at a position shown in Figure 1, so that it is electrically connected to a contact 26 via the carbon fibers. The grounding conductor 24 is connected to the contact 26 in removing the current (i.e. discharging the static electricity).

30 The body of the present invention is made up of layers shown in the cross-sectional view of a portion of the body. The body 10 (see Figure 1) is composed of layers that include: a carbon fiber composite layer 50 that has a top surface 51 and a bottom surface 52. A metal film 61, 62 is applied to the top surface 51 and the bottom surface 52, respectively, of
35 the carbon-fiber reinforced plastic material 50. The metal film 61, 62 includes at least one of the following: titanium, copper, aluminum, steel,

gold, silver, nickel, tin, and/or combinations thereof. This metal film 61, 62 provides the reflective surface that prevents energy absorption by the CFRP during transport in the present invention. This is particularly useful for the transport of precision devices such as flat panel displays and other
5 such devices in which energy absorption by the transport material can occur. This metal film 61, 62 is preferably titanium.

A glass fiber epoxy resin layer 71, 72 is applied to the metal film 61 (top surface layer) and 62 (bottom surface layer), respectively. (The glass fiber epoxy resin layers 71, 72 are applied to opposite sides of the metal
10 film 61 and 62 than those sides in contact with the carbon-fiber reinforced plastic material 50.) The translucent layer of the glass fiber and epoxy layer provide see through and protective fiber for the metal film. The composite layers shown in Figure 2 of the present invention will not absorb thermal energy and can be utilized as end effectors in the transport of
15 temperature sensitive flat panel displays. The carbon-fiber-reinforced composite layer of the body includes a non purity of less than 30 ppm, preferably less than 15 ppm water and less than 5 ppm, preferably less than 1 ppm hydrogen gas being evolved at a vacuum of 10⁻⁵ Pa, having a temperature condition of from 25°C to 250°C at a ramp up rate of
20 10°C/minute.

Reference is now made to Figure 3, which shows a top view of another embodiment of the transfer member of the present invention. A body 31 has a fork-shaped structure, and an electroconductive polymer part 32 is mounted in each of its branched ends. The body 31 is formed
25 by laminating cloth prepreg sheets. In the body 31, carbon fibers in the cloth prepreps are crossed and extended in the longitudinal direction and the width direction of the transfer member body 31. Therefore, the electroconductive polymer part 32 is electrically connected to a contact 36 via said carbon fibers, and in transferring an article, the article makes
30 contact with the electroconductive polymer part 32, so that a current flows in the arrow direction 33, thereby removing the current (i.e. discharging the static electricity). The grounding conductor 34 is connected to the contact 36 in a similar manner as described in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a cross section in which the transfer member is cut by a
35 vertical section, including its longitudinal direction. The body 11 has an oblong plate shape, and is formed of a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite

material, and has a concave part 15 on the upper surface of its distal end. The concave part 15 is produced by forming a molded body composed of a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material and cutting it in the shape shown. An electroconductive polymer part 12 has a convex part fitting into
5 the concave part 15 and is mounted in the body 11 via an electroconductive adhesive or by press-fitting it into the concave part 15. At the proximal end of the body 11, a contact 16 to a grounding conductor 14 is installed and connected to the grounding conductor 14. In actual use, the contact 16 may be directly connected to the grounding conductor
10 14 or may also be grounded via a device such as an industrial robot for moving the transfer member. The contact 16 can also have a structure fitted to each ground shape. The body 11 is formed by laminating unidirectional prepreg sheets. In the body 11, part or all of the carbon fibers of composite layer 50 are arranged substantially parallel with the
15 longitudinal direction of the body 11, that is, in the distal position to proximal position direction. Thus, the electroconductive polymer part 12 and the contact 16 are electrically connected via the carbon fibers of the body 11, and in transferring an article, the article makes contact with the electroconductive polymer part 12, so that a current flows in the arrow 13
20 direction, thereby removing the current.

The transfer member of the present invention comprises a body comprising a carbon-fiber-reinforced composite material and an electroconductive polymer part being electrically connected to at least part of the carbon fibers in said body and having a portion for contact with a
25 transferred article by it being placed on, can improve transferability of a transferred article such as silicon wafer for semiconductor and liquid crystal glass substrate by a transfer member, suppress damage to the transferred articles caused by a transferring environment and be easily manufactured, and has lightness, high stiffness, and high heat resistance
30 due to the body containing a fiber reinforced composite material and the electroconductive polymer part associated with the body, in addition, can effectively remove the static electricity of an article by the grounding method. Therefore, components such as large-scale glass substrates, flat panel displays and wafers, which require an accurate operation, can be
35 favorably transferred without lowering their qualities and yield. Thus, the transfer part is very useful in a similar manner as described in Figure 1. In

transferring an article, the article makes contact with the electroconductive polymer part 32, so that a current flows in the arrow direction 33. Also, in the method for manufacturing the transfer member of the present invention, the above-mentioned transfer part can be manufactured in a
5 simple manner.

It is therefore, apparent that there has been provided in accordance with the present invention, a transfer member with reflective surfaces that fully satisfies the aims and advantages hereinbefore set forth. While this invention has been described in conjunction with a specific embodiment
10 thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for transporting a device to prevent radiant thermal energy absorption by a surface which comprises the step of using a transporting member comprising:
- a) a body having a carbon-fiber reinforced composite material, said body having a top surface and a bottom surface;
 - b) a metal film covering the top and bottom surfaces of the composite body, said film forming a reflective surface; and
 - c) a glass fiber epoxy resin forming a layer on the metal film covering the top surface and the bottom surface of the body.
2. The method of **claim 1**, wherein the glass fiber epoxy resin layer provides a protective cover for the metal film on the top and bottom surfaces of the body.
3. The method of **claim 1**, wherein the reflective surface prevents the absorption of thermal energy by a heat sensitive material or device.
4. The method of **claim 3**, wherein the device is a flat panel display.
5. The method of **claim 1 or 3**, wherein the metal film comprises at least one of titanium, copper, aluminum, steel, gold, silver, nickel, tin, and combinations thereof.
6. The method of **claim 1**, wherein said carbon-fiber-reinforced composite of said body comprises a non purity of less than 30 ppm water and less than 5 ppm hydrogen gas being evolved at a vacuum of 10^{-5} Pa, having a temperature condition of from 25°C to 250°C at a ramp up rate of 10°C/minute.
7. The method of **claim 1**, wherein said glass fiber epoxy resin comprises a combination of a glass fiber material and an epoxy material.
8. The method of **claim 7**, wherein said glass fiber material is selected from the group of S-glass, E-glass, and D-glass.

9. The method of **claim 7**, wherein said epoxy resin material comprises condensation products of epichlorohydrin and bisphenol-A.

5 10. The method of **claim 1**, wherein the transfer member comprises three layers forming a composite body and each layer of the composite body preferably ranges from about 0.02 mm to about 1.00 mm in thickness.

10

1/2

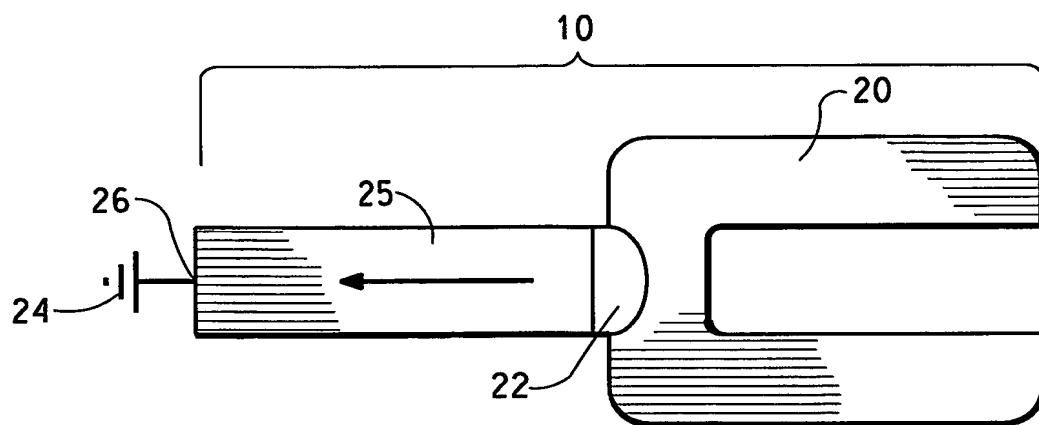


FIG. 1

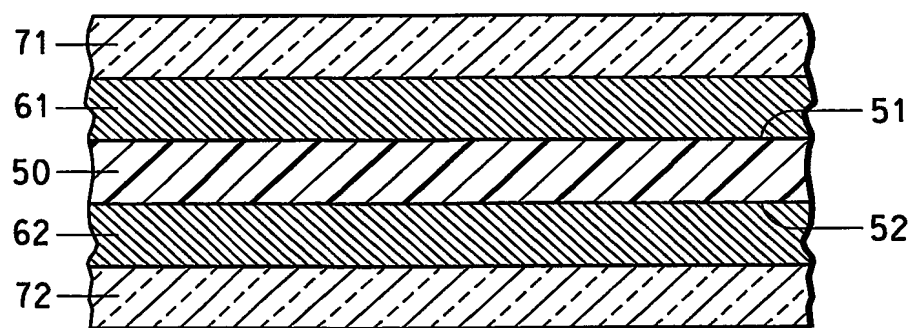


FIG. 2

2/2

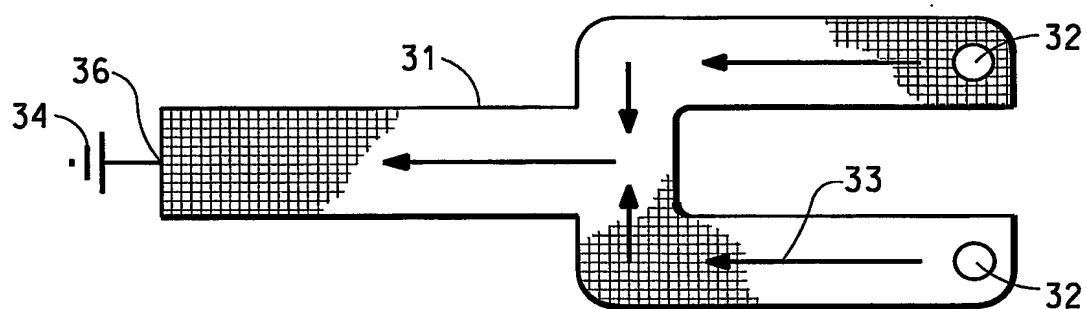


FIG. 3

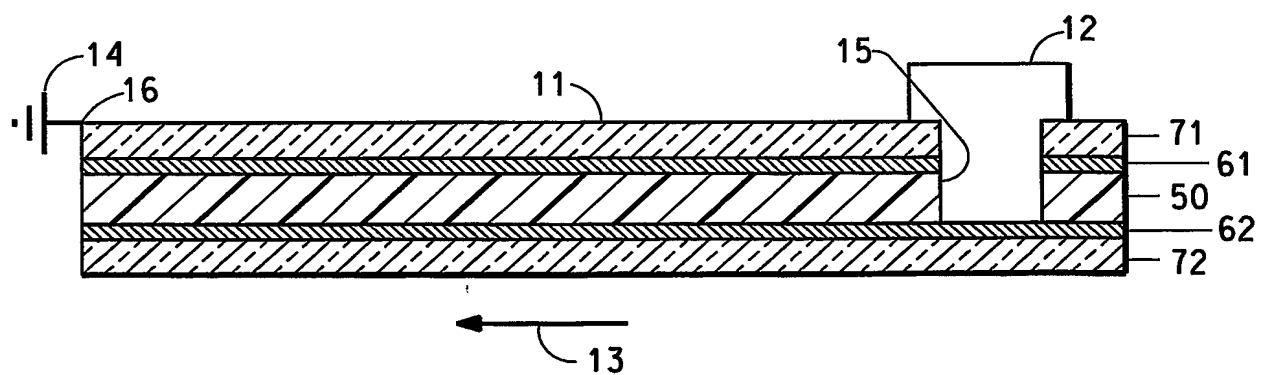


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/02/41652

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B32B15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B32B B25J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 961 994 A (CARIOU FRANK E ET AL) 9 October 1990 (1990-10-09) claim 1; figure 2 column 1, line 5 -column 2, line 1 ---	1,5
A	US 4 759 964 A (FISCHER JOSEF ET AL) 26 July 1988 (1988-07-26) claims 1-3,7; figure 1 column 3, line 10-20 column 4, line 25-29 ---	1,2,5,7, 10
A	US 4 888 247 A (ZWEBEN CARL H ET AL) 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) cited in the application figure 2 claims 1,16,17,19 --- -/--	1,5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/05/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stabel, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/41652

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 146 668 A (GAVRIELIDES GABRIEL ET AL) 27 March 1979 (1979-03-27) claims 1,7 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT 02/41652

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4961994	A	09-10-1990	DE 3841695 A1	29-06-1989
			FR 2624788 A1	23-06-1989
			GB 2213168 A	09-08-1989
			JP 1238929 A	25-09-1989
			JP 5071381 B	07-10-1993
US 4759964	A	26-07-1988	AT 384189 B	12-10-1987
			AT 360983 A	15-03-1987
			DE 3625534 A1	11-02-1988
			FR 2607442 A1	03-06-1988
			GB 2197820 A	02-06-1988
US 4888247	A	19-12-1989	DE 3777491 D1	23-04-1992
			EP 0257466 A2	02-03-1988
			JP 63102927 A	07-05-1988
US 4146668	A	27-03-1979	GB 1562569 A	12-03-1980
			DE 2654969 A1	23-06-1977
			FR 2333832 A1	01-07-1977
			JP 52081381 A	07-07-1977

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

I. International Application No

PCT/EP 02/41652

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B32B15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B32B B25J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 961 994 A (CARIOU FRANK E ET AL) 9 October 1990 (1990-10-09) claim 1; figure 2 column 1, line 5 -column 2, line 1 ---	1,5
A	US 4 759 964 A (FISCHER JOSEF ET AL) 26 July 1988 (1988-07-26) claims 1-3,7; figure 1 column 3, line 10-20 column 4, line 25-29 ---	1,2,5,7, 10
A	US 4 888 247 A (ZWEBEN CARL H ET AL) 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) cited in the application figure 2 claims 1,16,17,19 --- -/--	1,5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/05/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stabel, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP92/41652

Information on patent family members

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4961994	A	09-10-1990	DE	3841695 A1	29-06-1989
			FR	2624788 A1	23-06-1989
			GB	2213168 A	09-08-1989
			JP	1238929 A	25-09-1989
			JP	5071381 B	07-10-1993
US 4759964	A	26-07-1988	AT	384189 B	12-10-1987
			AT	360983 A	15-03-1987
			DE	3625534 A1	11-02-1988
			FR	2607442 A1	03-06-1988
			GB	2197820 A	02-06-1988
US 4888247	A	19-12-1989	DE	3777491 D1	23-04-1992
			EP	0257466 A2	02-03-1988
			JP	63102927 A	07-05-1988
US 4146668	A	27-03-1979	GB	1562569 A	12-03-1980
			DE	2654969 A1	23-06-1977
			FR	2333832 A1	01-07-1977
			JP	52081381 A	07-07-1977